

STATE SENATOR . MICHAEL PRUSI . 38TH DISTRICT  
**Prusi Press Release**

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## **SEN. PRUSI SUPPORTS STATE'S CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**LANSING** – State Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) announced his support today for recommendations included in the recent report authored by Governor Granholm's Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force.

"I'm encouraged that Governor Granholm is focused on implementing the recommendations of the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force," Prusi said. "These recommendations represent months of work by experts in wildlife management. I look forward to working with DNR, MDA, and hunters across the U.P. to implement and build upon these initial recommendations. As numerous herds throughout the U.P. have already been tested, this increased focus will help ensure the future health of our prized deer population."

Chronic Wasting Disease is a neurological disease of deer and elk that can be spread from animal to animal or indirectly from soil or surface to animal. Once considered to be a disease limited to small endemic areas, CWD has recently been found in more than 15 states and in Canada.

In addition to the call for a complete audit and creation of a new database, the recommendations include:

- developing a risk assessment to ascertain both the critical feature of a prevention/control strategy and the key priorities from which to direct and allocate resources;
- maintaining and enforcing a moratorium on animal movements until the risk assessment is complete in Michigan and any exporting state;
- transferring the license application, registration and fence inspection for the captive deer and elk herds to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and
- encouraging the deer and elk industry to adopt an individual animal ID system and conduct frequent inspections.

Prusi also said, "Chronic Wasting Disease prevention is especially important to people in the U.P. since three CWD cases have been documented just over the border in Wisconsin. Sustainable management of CWD and our deer herds is essential to preserve hunting opportunities and protecting the millions of dollars that deer hunting contributes to the Michigan economy."

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes 13 of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties.